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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,860	10/17/2001	Ruey-Feng Jean	JCLA6417	7968

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J.C. Patents, Inc.  
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EXAMINER

GUHARAY, KARABI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/981,860

**Applicant(s)**

JEAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

Karabi Guharay

**Art Unit**

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE & Pre-Amendment, filed on 6/3/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-11 and 13-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03 June 2004 has been entered.

Preliminary amendment, filed on 3 June 2004 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hinotani et al. (US 4920298).

Regarding claim 1, Hinotani et al. disclose a planar fluorescent lamp (Fig 1) comprising of a first panel (6) and a second panel (8) coated with fluorescent layer, a glass rim (glass side wall 20) joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has plurality of electrode seats (36) and two solid electrode structures, each having a solid electrode panel (28 & 30) and two electrode lead (32, 34) at two sides of the electrode (28 & 30) wherein each electrode has a neck region (L shape electrode lead 32 or 34 forms neck region, lines 5-65 of column 3).

Regarding claims 2-3, Hinotani discloses that the electrode (28) includes a planar structure, and the electrode leads (32, 34) include flat panels (see Fig 1, or Fig 2).

Regarding claims 4-5, Hinotani et al. disclose a planar fluorescent lamp (Fig 1) comprising of a first panel (6) and a second panel (8) coated with fluorescent layer, a glass rim (glass side wall 20) joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has plurality of electrode seats (36) and two solid electrode structures, each having an electrode (28 & 30) and two electrode lead (32, 34) at two sides of the electrode (28, 30), wherein each electrode (28) includes a bent serration structure (38), and the electrode lead (32, 34) has a neck region (L shape electrode lead 32 or 34 forms neck region).

Claim 6 recites essentially the same limitation of claim 3. Thus claim 6 is rejected as claim 3 (see rejection of claim 3).

Regarding claim 7, Hinotani discloses that the glass rim (20) further comprising a gap (24 of Fig 1) for installing a venting tube (26, lines 36-45 of column 3).

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 8-11 & 13-16 are allowed over the prior art of record.

#### ***Examiner's Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

Regarding claim 8, applicant's argument that the prior art structure of electrode is not a solid rod electrode structure, is found to be persuasive, since solid rod means a rod like structure without an internal cavity.

Claims 9-11 & 13-16 are allowed being dependent on allowed base claim 8.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 03 June 2004 regarding amended claim 1-7 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Amended claim 1 recites a solid electrode structure, each having a solid electrode panel, however, examiner wants to point out that any geometrical structure or figure having three dimension is called solid structure or solid panel, unlike a solid rod which is considered a particular structure without an internal cavity. Thus Hinotani's electrode structure claimed in claim 1 is a solid electrode structure with solid panel.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karabi Guharay whose telephone number is (571) 272-2452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimeshkumar D. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Karabi Guharay*  
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